

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01389 271004Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 HA-05 AID-05 /081 W

-----003324 271125Z /23

R 270810Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7799

INFO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 1389

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PROP, ET, UK

SUBJ: EPMG BLASTS UK OVER ANTI-ETHIOPIAN PRESS ARTICLES

1. AT SAME TIME ETHIOPIAN MOFA WAS ACCUSING US OF CONSPIRING WITH SOMALIA FOR LATTER TO ANNEX DJIBOUTI (ADDIS ABABA 1383), SEVERAL RECENT ARTICLES APPEARING IN LONDON NEWSPAPERS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ETHIOPIA PROVOKED PREDICTABLY HOSTILE REACTION FROM EPMG AGAINST UK. ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTIONARY INFORMATION CENTRE (ERIC) ISSUED STATEMENT MARCH 23 CHARGING THAT BRITISH MASS MEDIA USE OF "RED TERROR" AND "HUMAN RIGHTS" TO VILIFY ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION WAS CLEAR INDICATION THAT IMPERIALIST POWERS HAVE CHANGED THEIR TACTICS FOR SUBVERTING REVOLUTION AND HAVE STARTED VIRULENT ANTI-ETHIOPIA PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN. ERIC ACCUSED BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN PERSONALLY OF INTENSIFYING THIS PROPAGANDA, AND INDICATION THAT IT "MAY WELL BE MADE CORNERSTONE OF BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY."

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2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS USUAL PRACTICE, ETHIOPIAN HERALD PICKED UP THESE CHARGES IN EDITORIAL MARCH 26, CONTAINING THE NOW FAMILIAR THREAT THAT IF LONDON CONTINUED ITS HOSTILE BEHAVIOR AGAINST ETHIOPIA AND ITS REVOLUTION, RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES MIGHT BE RENDERED MEANINGLESS. EDITORIAL WAS CRITICAL OF

UK FOR HARBORING ETHIOPIAN EDU ARISTOCRATS AND FOR ACTION OF MP'S WINSTON CHURCHILL AND JULIAN AMERY FOR VISITING MOGADISCIO IN FEBRUARY AND CALLING FOR ACTIVE MILITARY AID TO SOMALIA AT HEIGHT OF INVASION. IT CALLED ON WHITEHALL TO SET ITS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER BY SOLVING WAR IN IRELAND AND BY MEETING "LEGITIMATE DEMANDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES WITHIN COUNTRY." EDITORIAL SAID BLOODSHED AND TERROR WERE DAILY OCCURRENCES IN IRELAND, AND BRITAIN SHOULD ADDRESS THAT ISSUE, INSTEAD OF MEDDLING IN ETHIOPIA'S AFFAIRS.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ETHIOPIAN SENSITIVITY TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE REMAINS HIGH, IT IS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO TAKE SERIOUSLY EPMG'S IDLE THREATS CONCERNING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. WHAT DOES EMERGE FROM THIS BLAST AGAINST UK AND NEW CHARGES AGAINST US IS RENEWED EVIDENCE OF EPMG DESIRE TO KEEP WESTERN COUNTRIES ON DEFENSIVE AND TO BUILD CASE FOR RETAINING IN COUNTRY PERSONNEL OF ITS NEWFOUND SOCIALIST FRIENDS.

MATHERON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 mar 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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